

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for populating a plurality of fields
5 in a find dialog of a spreadsheet program module, the method comprising the
steps of:
determining a plurality of formatting characteristics of a cell in the
spreadsheet; and
editing the plurality of fields in the find dialog to correspond to the
10 plurality of formatting characteristics of the cell.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the plurality of
formatting characteristics of the cell in the spreadsheet is performed in
response to a selection of the cell.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the selection of the cell comprises
receiving an indication of a selection made by a user.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the indication is entered by the user
20 moving a cursor over the first cell and clicking a mouse button.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the cursor is shaped like an
eyedropper.

8. A computer-implemented method for performing a find operation on a file of a spreadsheet program module, the method comprising the following steps:

determining if text is entered in a find field of a find dialog;

5 if text is not entered in the find field, then performing the following steps:

determining whether formatting attributes are entered for the find operation and, if so, then finding any cells in the spreadsheet with formatting attributes matching the entered formatting attributes;

10 if text is entered in the find field of the find dialog, then performing the following steps:

determining whether formatting attributes are entered for the find operation and, if so, then finding any cells in the spreadsheet with formatting attributes matching the entered formatting attributes and text matching the entered text;

15 and, if no formatting attributes are entered for the find operation, then finding any cells in the spreadsheet with text matching the entered text.

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9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of displaying the found cells of the spreadsheet in a results list of the find dialog.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of displaying the found cells
25 comprises displaying a book entry, a sheet entry, a name entry, a cell entry, a value entry and a formula entry for each found cell.

14. A computer-implemented method for performing a replace operation on a file of a spreadsheet program module, the method comprising the following steps:

5 determining if text is entered in a replace with field of a find and replace dialog;

if text is not entered in the replace with field, then performing the following steps:

10 determining whether formatting attributes are entered for the replace operation and, if so, then finding any cells in the spreadsheet with formatting attributes and text matching the entered formatting attributes and text for the find operation; and replacing the formatting attributes of the found cells with the formatting attributes for the replace operation;

15 if text is entered in the replace with field of the find and replace dialog, then performing the following steps:

20 determining whether formatting attributes are entered for the replace operation and, if so, then finding any cells in the spreadsheet with formatting attributes and text matching the entered formatting attributes and text for the find operation and replacing the formatting attributes and text of the found cells with the text entered in the replace with field and the formatting attributes for the replace operation;

25 and, if no formatting attributes are entered for the find operation, then finding any cells in the spreadsheet with formatting attributes and text matching the entered formatting

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17. A find and replace dialog for use in association with a document of a computer application program module, the dialog comprising:
a Find What field, wherein the Find What field comprises a text string to search for;
a format button, wherein, when selected, the format dropdown button displays a number of formatting attributes for selection by the user;
and
a find all button.

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18. The find and replace dialog of claim 17 wherein the find all button, when selected executes computer-implemented instructions to find every instance of the text string and selected formatting attributes in the document.

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19. The find and replace dialog of claim 18 wherein the found instances are displayed in a results list.

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20. The find and replace dialog of claim 17 further comprising a find next button which, when selected, executes computer-implemented instructions to find a first instance of the text string and selected formatting attributes in the document.

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